

**Syria decries end of embargo against Israel**

DAMASCUS (AP) — Syria Friday criticised European countries that recently lifted an embargo on arms sales to Israel, saying such decisions could hinder the search for a Middle East peace settlement. "When Europe lifts the embargo against Israel and keeps it valid against the Arabs, it means that the Jewish state is getting direct support for its aggressive policies," the newspaper Al Basha said. The daily, mouthpiece of the ruling Arab Socialist Party, said support and assistance offered by the United States and Europe constituted "a reward for Israel's aggression ... which can only increase tension in the Middle East region and block the peace process." British Foreign Secretary Douglas Hurd said Thursday his government is ready to advocate ending an arms embargo against Syria, if Syria and Israel continue to make progress toward a peace settlement. "In that context, we will be ready to raise with our European partners the lifting of the European Union arms embargo against Syria," Mr. Hurd said in a letter to the House of Commons.

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AMMAN SATURDAY, MAY 28, 1994, THU AL HIJEH 17, 1414

Price: Jordan 150 Fils

**Russian envoy arrives in Amman**

RAMTHA (Petra) — The Russian presidential envoy Victor Posuvaliuk arrived in Amman Friday evening for talks with Jordanian officials on the latest developments in the peace process and bilateral relations. Mr. Posuvaliuk said in an arrival statement that he will deliver a message to His Majesty King Hussein from the Russian President Boris Yeltsin.

**Police hold Islamic Jihad man**

GAZA (R) — The Islamic Jihad movement Friday accused Palestinian security forces in the Gaza Strip of illegally holding one of its members without charge and said it would not stay silent in the face of such acts. Muslim leaders in Gaza said the arrested man, Hani Abed, 31, was a journalist working for Al Abrar Press and Information Centre Associated with the Islamic Jihad movement which opposes the PLO's peace deal with Israel. "Four days ago Palestinian policemen searched for Hani at his home and office, but we refused to let them in whereabout," Mr. Abed's sister Itimad said. "Hani then went to the security headquarters to see what they wanted, where he is still detained to this minute." Mr. Abed is the first Palestinian detained by Palestinian Police men who took control from Israel in most of the Gaza Strip this month. Palestinian security men confirmed Mr. Abed's detention but refused to give a reason. They said he was the only person held in the Gaza Central Prison. Abdulla Al Shami, a leading Islamic Jihad figure in Gaza, told Reuters: "Instead of gaining people's popularity, the Palestinian security men are trying to appear to the enemy."

**Peres rejects PLO directive**

WASHINGTON (AP) — Israeli Foreign Minister Shimon Peres brushed aside as "irrelevant" a statement by PLO Chairman Yasser Arafat asserting the validity of pre-1967 laws in Gaza and Jericho. Mr. Peres said Mr. Arafat's statement has no standing because the regulations governing Palestinian self-rule in Gaza and Jericho were worked out in the declaration of principles signed by Israel and the PLO. Mr. Peres was asked about Mr. Arafat's statement after a breakfast gathering shortly before meeting with U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher, who indicated concern about a series of statements by Mr. Arafat since the self-rule agreement went into effect. During a photo session with Mr. Peres, Mr. Christopher said he believes it would be very helpful if Mr. Arafat reaffirmed his commitment to peace with Israel.

**Arafat receives medical check-up**

TUNIS (R) — An exhausted Yasser Arafat had a check-up at Tunis hospital this week but the Palestine Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader quickly returned to work, PLO officials said Friday. Mr. Arafat had the check-up at the military hospital on Tuesday, they said. "It took about three hours but he did not spend some days, as reported by some media," a senior PLO official told Reuters. "I saw him at his office just when he came back."

**Egyptian police kill suspected militant**

CAIRO (AP) — Police killed a suspected Islamic militant and arrested two others in a clash Friday at Al Badri in the southern province of Assiut, police officials said. An interior ministry statement identified the dead man as Ali Abdel Rahman Salama, 24, and said he was part of a band involved in smuggling weapons into the area. Meanwhile, police in Assiut said they were searching for militants planning to attack an Assiut cinema showing "The Terrorist," a movie critical of Islamic extremists, and kill police officers newly assigned to the city.

**HRH addresses InterParliamentary Council against Antisemitism****Crown Prince calls for the establishment of council to combat 'Islamophobia' in Europe**

Struggle against racial, religious intolerance must be coordinated

**Vital similarities exist between antisemitism, anti-Muslim feelings**

AMMAN (J.T.) — His Royal Highness Crown Prince Hassan, in an address to a British Parliamentary group Thursday, called for the establishment of a council to combat "Islamophobia" in Europe, saying there are vital similarities between antisemitism and anti-Muslim feelings.

Noting that the end of the cold war has had other ramifications for European Muslims, the Crown Prince said that with the possibility of global Communism now a distant memory, there is a vacuum of clearly identifiable

Prince Hassan told the Council that he considers discrimination of any sort to be in violation of the Holy Koran.

Following is the full text of Prince Hassan's address:

IT IS AN HONOUR FOR ME TO ADDRESS THE INTERPARLIAMENTARY COUNCIL AGAINST ANTISEMITISM, PARTICULARLY AS I COME BEFORE YOU NOT ONLY AS A GUEST, BUT AS A MEMBER OF THE COUNCIL. I WOULD LIKE TO QUOTE FROM THE HOLY KORAN, WHICH PROCLAIMS (49:13):

"O MANKIND, WE HAVE CREATED YOU MALE AND FEMALE, AND HAVE MADE YOU NATIONS AND TRIBES

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## Saudi Arabia says 270 died in Haj stampede

DUBAI (Agencies) — Saudi Arabia said Thursday that 270 Muslim pilgrims were killed in this week's stampede at the annual Haj near the holy city of Mecca in the kingdom.

An official statement, the first on Monday's stampede, said 127 victims had so far been identified. They included Arabs, Africans, Asians and two Europeans.

The statement, carried on the official Saudi Press Agency, said the incident occurred as hundreds of thousands of people crowded at an enclosure at Mina where pilgrims hurl stones at three piles of rocks symbolising the devil.

Mina is 15 kilometres from the holy city of Mecca.

The statement blamed the pilgrims and said their rush to hurl stones and the crowding was impossible to control despite the efforts of policemen and warnings via loudspeakers.

The crowds of hundreds of thousands... ignored the instructions given to them... They all rushed, hurried to hurl stones at the same time competing to reach the rocks.

"Many of them were carrying their bags on their backs which led to severe crowding... So they started falling and trampling," the statement said.

It said the stampede took place despite the fact that the kingdom had spent billions of dollars on bridges and highways and on expanding holy places to relieve congestion during the annual Haj, which it said 1.5 million Muslims joined this year.

It attacked "those who slander and doubt" what Saudi Arabia had done "for the comfort of pilgrims."

Of the identified victims, it said there were six Saudis, 11 Egyptians, two Sudanese, one Yemeni, six Algerians, one Jordanian, one Moroccan, five

Turks, eight Nigerians, 18 Indians, six Bangladeshis, 44 Pakistanis, six Indonesians, one Iranian, one Ghanaian, one Afghan, one Dutch, one from Mauritius and one from Denmark.

It said the names of the victims would be published in the Saudi Press Agency.

The worst of recent tragedies at the Haj was in 1990, when up to 1,800 people were killed in a stampede in a pedestrian tunnel at Mecca.

In 1987 some 400 people, mostly Iranians, were killed in clashes with Saudi security forces during anti-Western protests.

Saudi Arabia has spent billions of dollars on projects to improve safety and make the pilgrimage more comfortable. It has also imposed quotas on Muslim countries to limit the number of pilgrims and ease overcrowding.

Hundreds of aged or infirm pilgrims die every year during the Haj. Muslims believe a person who dies during it goes straight to heaven.

This year's pilgrimage reached its climax Friday but many pilgrims, dressed in seamless white robes, were still performing rituals in and around the city of Mecca Monday.

It has also seen confrontations between Saudi authorities, who ban all political activity at the Haj, and Iranian pilgrims determined to hold rallies with strongly political themes.

Iranian Radio said Monday that thousands of Iranian pilgrims held a "disavowal of infidels" rally at their tent camp near Mecca, chanting anti-American and anti-Israeli slogans.

Iran's official news agency (IRNA) quoted witnesses as blaming Monday's tragedy on "the inefficiency of Saudi officials."

## Sudan intensifies Yemen evacuation moves

KHARTOUM (R) — Sudan has stepped up efforts to evacuate several hundred of its nationals remaining in Yemen.

The government last week repatriated 724 Sudanese from Yemen by ship and the English-language newspaper New Horizon said Friday that more were on their way.

The paper said none of the Sudanese in Yemen had been harmed but a committee formed by the government to study the situation has prop-

osed sending a medical team to care for returnees.

Sudan Airways has expressed its readiness to transport medical teams and equipment to Port Sudan and from there to Yemen.

Reports from Yemen say many Sudanese working there want to go home but are reluctant to leave personal belongings behind.

The government has said priority is being given to the

transportation of people rather than property.

Meanwhile Sudan has come close to openly taking sides in the civil war between north and south Yemen, separate states which unified four years ago.

Sudan's Ministry of Foreign Affairs issued a statement Thursday reasserting Sudan's absolute support for Yemeni unity, in line with the views of North Yemeni President Ali Abdullah Saleh.

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JORDAN TIMES, SATURDAY, MAY 28, 1994

## King receives condolences

AMMAN (Petra) — His Majesty King Hussein Friday received cables of condolences over the passing of Princess Saleha. The cables were sent by Syrian President Hafez Al Assad, Sheikh Issa Ben Salman Al Khalifa of Bahrain and Palestinian President Yasser Arafat. Directors of the public security, general intelligence and civil defence departments also sent cables.

## JEA announces plans to boost Aqaba station

AMMAN (J.T.) — The Jordan Electricity Authority (JEA) has announced plans for the installation of two electrical generating units at its Aqaba Thermal Power Station starting the end of 1994.

A JEA statement said tenders for the project have been announced and will be received and opened during the first week of July with the intention of placing contracts by the end of 1994 in order to complete the extension project by 1997.

The present output from the station is 260 megawatts (MW); with the new units the capacity will be increased to 520 MW, said the statement.

## Prince Hassan calls for council

(Continued from page 11)

hand, and the seemingly unstoppable march of development on the other, were thought likely to wash away such outdated and statististic notions. This has not been the case. While it is true that strategic superpower interests largely subsumed these notions during the cold war, they have re-emerged powerfully with the ending of the war. It is clear that a reassessment is in order; and the predicament of Europe's minorities would seem a suitable starting point.

The problems of communal coexistence are complex indeed, despite the best will of those who seek true multiculturalism. Practical issues of everyday life demand delineation and a definition of attitudes. Religious minorities have continued to labour under medieval perceptions in European societies, while they have sometimes been bent on insulating themselves against the encroachment of European values on their traditional modes.

The roles of the extended family, males and females, arranged and inter-communal marriages, education and religious instruction, have all been questioned. The children of immigrants, especially those born in Europe, have become discriminated in a society which sometimes appears to them laden with inherent contradictions. The conflict between their immediate cultural milieu and the broader societal framework has often set them apart from their contemporaries. This predicament will certainly be familiar to European Jews.

For the six million Muslims of Europe, the picture is strikingly similar. Through a process of settlement, conversion and more recently economic migration, most European countries host significant Muslim minorities. A sense of alienation became dominant as the Muslim communities of Europe, feeling marginal and vulnerable, grew during the latter part of this century. The Rushdie affair and the Gulf War strengthened the tendency of the Muslim communities to view themselves as beleaguered, and of Europeans to see them as a threat.

The situation has been compounded by the tragedy that is still being relentlessly played out in the Balkans. Reports of unprecedented atrocities have inflamed public opinion throughout the Islamic World, while adherents of other faiths have not been immune to the violence of religious and cultural intolerance. I have been to the area of conflict in the former Yugoslavia, and have seen the destruction of both Christian and Muslim holy sites. This must not be allowed to continue, for the deadly results of



INAUGURAL FLIGHT. Qatar Airways Friday launches its Amman-Doha route from Queen Alia International Airport. Attending the inaugural ceremony were Qatar Airways Director General Sheikh Hamad Bin Ali Al Thani, Minister of Transport Adeeb Halasa, senior officials of Royal Jordanian (RJ), the Ministry of Transport and the Civil Aviation Authority, as well as the Qatari ambassador to Jordan and the Qatar Airways agent in Amman (Petra photo)

Transport Adeeb Halasa, senior officials of Royal Jordanian (RJ), the Ministry of Transport and the Civil Aviation Authority, as well as the Qatari ambassador to Jordan and the Qatar Airways agent in Amman (Petra photo)

## Worst heat wave in 54 years to taper off — meteorologist

By a Jordan Times Staff Reporter

AMMAN — The heat wave which has persisted in the area for 12 days will Saturday begin tapering off, although temperatures will remain slightly above their annual average, according to Department of Meteorology Director Ali Abada.

Dr. Abada told the Jordan Times Friday that temperatures will decrease gradually because Jordan is still affected by a "thermal low pressure" centred over northern Saudi Arabia and the Red Sea.

According to Dr. Abada, heat wave is indicated when temperatures exceed the annual average by 5° for a continuous period of more than five days.

Temperatures in May normally do not rise above 28° but they have been hovering between 32°C and 36°C since May 17, according to Dr. Abada.

He said Jordan has not witnessed a heat spell such as this in 54 years, adding that there have been several cases of citizens suffering from sun stroke, and brush fires were reported in a number of regions.

The 1939 heat wave saw temperatures rise in May from 34°C to 40°C, but it was several days shorter than the current spell.

Meanwhile, the olive harvest in Jordan is expected to be adversely affected by the severe heat, according to Khalil Jurun, head of the Horticulture Department at the Ministry of Agriculture.

Mr. Jurun said farmers



Bathers enjoy the warm waters of Ma'in waterfalls (file photo)

who have been counting on this year's harvest to make up for their losses from the poor harvest last year, will be disappointed because the harsh conditions accompanied by the heat wave and high winds have hindered the olive-growing process.

The areas most affected, Mr. Jurun said, are between the Jordan Valley and the

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## JOIN THE INTERNATIONAL BACCALAUREATE PROGRAMME AT ABS ONE YEAR PRE-IB COURSE

The Amman Baccalaureate School (ABS) invites applications from academically qualified students currently in grade 9 in Jordanian schools who are interested in entering the International Baccalaureate (I.B.) programme.

ABS has vacancies for a special one-year course that will provide students with a unique opportunity to acquire the academic skills necessary to join the challenging 2 year I.B. course.

The I.B. curriculum starts at the Amman Baccalaureate School in grade 11. It is a very well-organised, two-year, pre-university course of studies preferred by college and university admission offices throughout the world. I.B. courses rely more on analytical and reasoning skills rather than just the knowledge of subject content.

Therefore, ABS is offering this special transitional year to give students a chance to acquire the essential skills in each subject area that will be required for an I.B. programme.

At the completion of this special 'bridge' year students may choose to sit for up to four 'core' IGCSE (Cambridge) examinations including: English, Arabic, Mathematics, and possibly French.

In all other subject areas ABS will be offering appropriate school-based courses that are especially designed to meet both the pre-I.B. as well as Tawjhi equivalence requirements. These subjects will include: Combined Science, History, Geography and Economics, as well as Art, Computer Skills and Religion.

On successful completion of this one year course students will be eligible to enter the two year I.B. programme, or Tawjhi Science stream.

For more information, please contact Mrs. Munira El Jundi, the school registrar, telephone no. 845572, 847191

## WHAT'S GOING ON

The following listings are compiled from monthly bulletins and the daily Arabic press. Readers are advised to verify the listed time and place with the concerned institutions.

## LECTURE

★ Lecture in English entitled "The History of Arabic Silver Jewelry" by Ms. Hanan Sadeq Beraudo at Goethe-Institut at 7:00 p.m.

## STORY RECITAL

★ Story recital by Dr. Hind Abul Sha'r at the Jordan Writers Association at 6:00 p.m.

## EXHIBITIONS

★ Installation entitled "Ephemeres of a Circle" by artist Noël Favrelière at Darat Al

Fund of the Abdul Hameed Shoman Foundation in Jabal Luweideh at 5:00 p.m. Tel. 643251/21.

- ★ Exhibition of paintings by disabled children at the Royal Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of paintings by 20 Jordanian and Iraqi artists (including Widad Orfali, Hussein Da'seh, Waddah Al Ward, Adnan Al Hiti and Mahmoud Hussein) at Orfali Art Gallery in Umm Uthaima (Tel. 826932).
- ★ Exhibition by 46 artists entitled "He: Monsieur La Potaine" at the French Cultural Centre.
- ★ Exhibition of water colour paintings by artist Itab Hreibi and another exhibition of ceramics by Sajida Al Mashaikhi at Ain Art Gallery in Wadi Saqra (Tel. 644451, 652823).
- ★ Exhibition by artist Helmi El-Touni at Bajada Art Gallery (Tel. 687598).

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## Jordan Times

An independent Arab political daily published in English by the Jordan Press Foundation. Established 1975.

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### Two faiths, one enemy

**HIS ROYAL HIGHNESS** Crown Prince Hassan's speech before the Inter-Parliamentary Council against Antisemitism in London Thursday was a timely reminder that the problems of racism, discrimination and intolerance are still with us despite all efforts to eradicate them. After reminding his audience that Islam is a religion of tolerance, the Crown Prince sought to bring to the attention of his audience the fact that Muslims are increasingly being subjected to discrimination and intolerance in western Europe, presumably a continent with an impeccable human rights record.

To rectify this situation that has been made worse by the media's continued portrayal of Islam as a threat to the West, Prince Hassan has proposed the creation of a parliamentary council to combat "Islamophobia" to work and function in parallel with the Council against Antisemitism of which he is a member.

We can only support this call for the ending of double standards in the application of human rights principles and warn that in spite of the countless human rights instruments and conventions, religious discrimination and intolerance, like ethnic racism have been on the rise everywhere.

The Crown Prince had ample ammunition to support his thesis that the international scene is replete with evidence that the tide of discrimination is still in full swing. From ethnic cleansing in rump Yugoslavia to ethnic and tribal warfare in Rwanda, the evidence is overwhelming that the phenomenon of discrimination is rampant everywhere one looks.

In this vein, we believe that the right place to begin the struggle against discrimination and intolerance is in the minds and hearts of men and women. That is where the struggle has to start, and unless the international community takes up this challenge there can be no hope to check the tide of discrimination and intolerance. Education and media campaigning have a leading role in the effort to eradicate discrimination. But there are other tools that are available to complement the function of education. Highlighting Islamophobia through the creation of international institutions to combat it could also be the right way to initiate the coordinated effort against all forms of discrimination and stereotyping.

### ARABIC PRESS COMMENTARIES

**AL RA'I** Arabic daily welcomed signs of possible negotiations between the leaders in Sanaa and Aden following weeks of fighting that left a trail of destruction and death. Reports about readiness on the part of the two sides to start talks are considered the first important diplomatic development in Yemen in weeks, and could usher in a new era that would put a final end to the sufferings of the population, said the daily. It is a welcome step on the part of third Yemeni parties to take the initiative and call for a truce and the start of negotiations despite the difficulties, said the paper. But the most important thing at the moment, it added, is to get the two sides to start talking peace and find ways to protect their unity and their national gains away from selfish interests and weapons.

A COLUMNIST in *Al Ra'i* daily expressed the belief that Turkey will soon take a unilateral step and end the sanctions imposed on Iraq. Indeed Ankara has already declared that it was opening its borders and trade with Iraq and intends to use the oil trapped in the pipelines from the oil fields in Iraq to Turkish ports, said Tareq Masarwah. The writer said that Ankara is under pressure to take this step in view of its huge economic losses as a result of the sanctions on the one hand and the pressure of the Kurds in the eastern regions who are launching a war of attrition on Turkish forces on the other. The writer said that it is sad to see Kuwaiti delegations touring Western capitals demanding the continuation of the sanctions on Iraq and to hear calls by some Arab capitals to retain the embargo in order to protect the current rate of oil prices on the world markets, said the writer. The writer said that while Turkey is concerned over the interests of its own people, some Arab regimes are concerned over causing harm to their kinsmen.

### JORDANIAN PERSPECTIVE

By Dr. Musa Keilani

## Victims of a global game

**FARIS** is a Bosnian journalist who few weeks ago took part in the conference sponsored by the International Parliamentarians against Genocide in Bosnia and Herzegovina (IPAG), which was held in Brussels. He was not the typical overexcited propagandist we usually meet on such occasions. He and his Bosnian wife Malika were rational, objective, cool-headed and sincere. His remarks and ideas justify some elaborations here.

The Balkan area has for centuries been an explosive powder keg, the mishandling of which would result in many acts of genocide and carnage. It is not only the question of four million Bosnians facing a mightier, 12-million enemy, like the Serbs who are four times superior in their military experience as professional officers or in army equipment, or in their loyalty to the concept of Greater Serbia with 30 million citizens all over other parts of Europe. Moreover it is not the question of peasant Muslims standing against organised foes who acquired their fighting skills since they fought the Nazis under the command of British officers and who carried on the same military Spartan tradition under Marshal Josip Broz Tito when they, as ethnic Serbs, staffed the entire Yugoslav air force, the entire army officers corps and senior artillery and communication posts.

The problem, to Faris, lies in the entente cordiale which continued between the old patrons and the new generations of Serbs who, though turned Communists, still retain their chauvinistic national ego as they pride themselves in maintaining a tradition of independence since 1389 when Turkey recognised them as a vassal principality, and since 1878 when they became a recognised sovereign kingdom in accordance with the Treaty of Berlin; and since one Serb managed to assassinate in June 28, 1914 the Austrian Archduke Ferdinand and thus provided the pretext for World War I, which started with one million soldiers each of Britain, France, Austria and Russia. The German army of Wilhelm II was the strongest European army then, with two million soldiers.

It is this feeling of being abandoned by all the main global protagonists that worries many Bosnians like Faris. They easily jump to conclusions (which might be mistaken) that the Catholic Croats managed to find immediate support from both

the Holy See and Italy and France, which has the biggest military contingent in the fields, providing real protection to all Croatian villages and boundary lines, the way Maj. Gen. Philippe Morillon arranged it. Even some of the Muslim battalions there, like that of Maj. Gen. Abdul Razek, are actually helpless under orders from U.N. Secretary General Boutros Gali and British officers operating within the United Nations command (UNPROFOR).

**"Due to this Arab apathy and international carelessness, we Bosnians had fifty thousand Muslim girls raped, two hundred thousand killed and two million Bosnians became displaced and refugees"** — a Bosnian journalist

Faris carries on to explain how the Orthodox majority in former Yugoslavia enjoys the funding and moral support of their coreligionists in Cyprus, Greece and Russia. The Russian stand was very much in favour of the Orthodox Serbs. Many shipments of fuel, arms and ammunitions found their way easily to the Serbs in spite of the ostensible embargo on that territory.

Faris refers to a statement on Feb. 10, 1994 by the Russian deputy prime minister warning that Russia would not tolerate any NATO intervention against Serbia, and that it would be convening an urgent meeting of the U.N. Security Council to that effect.

Earlier to that, a stronger statement came on Feb. 7, 1994 from presidential adviser Andranik Migranyan who said: "A strike against Serbia can prove to be strike against Russia. It is a mistake to believe that Vladimir Zhirinovsky is alone in his pro-Serbian position."

Moreover, the Russian Foreign Minister Andrei Kozyrev said that should the world move in favour of Bosnia, Russia

would look to the "ethnic cleansing" against Russian citizens (allegedly) taking place in the Baltic states.

Faris is sure that there is a deliberate attempt to wipe out Muslims in Bosnia. He says certain European powers do not want a Muslim state within the exclusive elitist club of European Christians. Those European powers and the United Nations Security Council, which they control, want Bosnia destroyed. The strategy they followed to achieve that target was to impose an arms embargo on the Muslims so that they cannot defend themselves against aggressors and invaders.

On Sept. 25, 1991, the Security Council adopted Resolution 713 implementing "a general and complete embargo on all deliveries of weapons and military equipment."

The four million Muslims, this way, were reduced to the state of being defenceless and unarmed victims. The United Nations, and all the military contingents within UNPROFOR became the watchdog that made sure that the Muslim victims had no way to defending themselves.

Due to this Arab apathy and international carelessness, Faris says, "we Bosnians had fifty thousand Muslim girls raped, two hundred thousand killed and two million Bosnians became displaced and refugees."

"Serbian war criminal Radovan Karadzic, weeks before starting the acts of genocide, told the Bosnian people: Nobody is going to help you. Greater Serbia will be created. In this mandate, even God is a Serb."

For the first time in history, the United Nations is preventing a legitimate member from arming itself against the onslaught of a country, "Serbia", that has been kicked out of the United Nations.

It is high time to lift the arms embargo against Bosnian Muslims. The United States, which provides 40 per cent of the U.N. budget, can contribute to lifting the U.N. sanctioning of Serbian rape and aggression.

Faris adds that we as Muslims are justified in addressing our tragedy to the American public opinion, to the Japanese public opinion and to the whole world. But, unfortunately, we cannot address our cries to the Muslim Arabs since they themselves need somebody to cry for them since the emasculation in the second Gulf war.

Reviewed by Elia Nasrallah

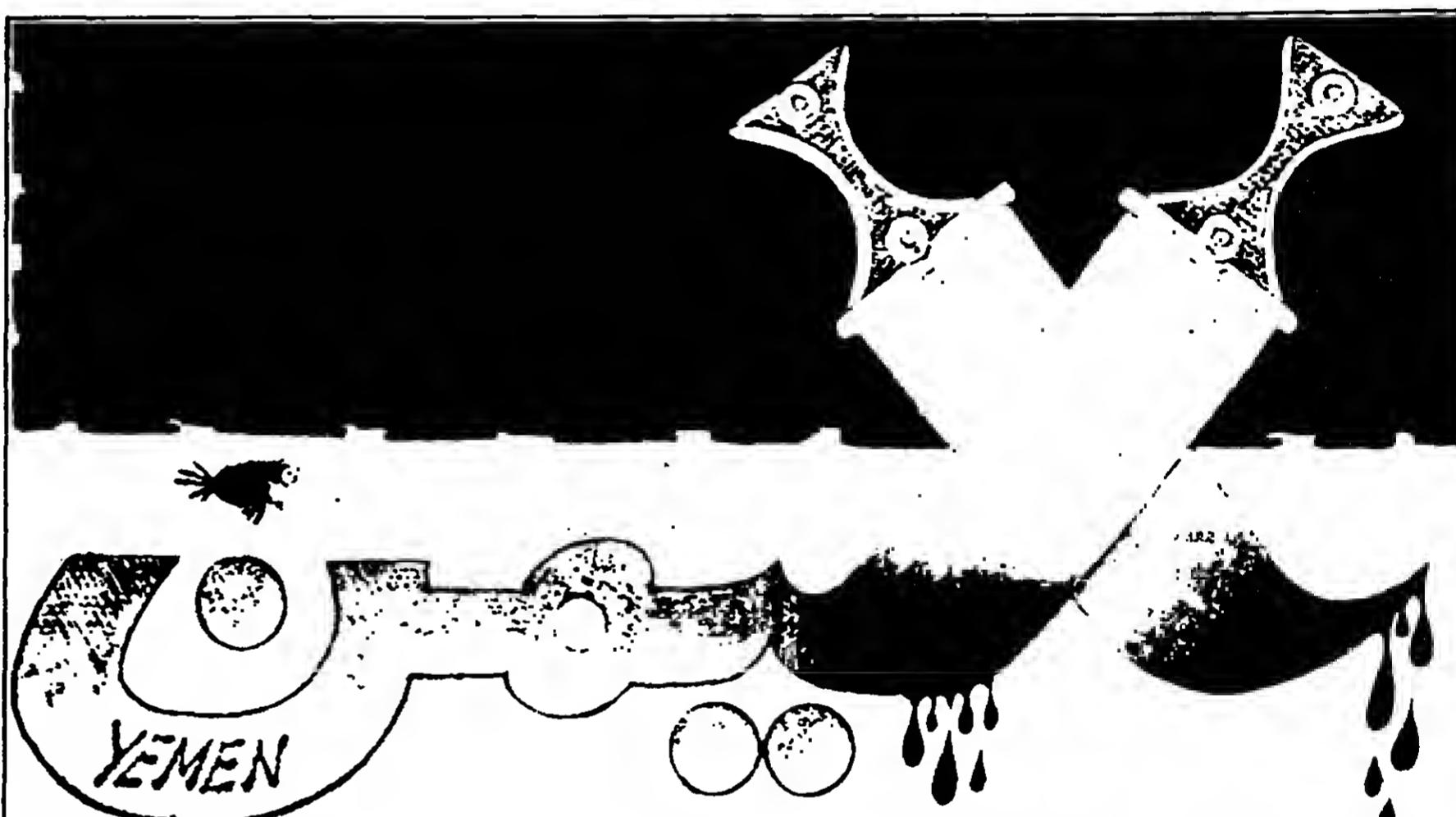
THE WAR in Yemen, the start of the autonomy rule in Gaza and Jericho and a number of domestic affairs near addressed by the local press over the past week.

Al Dustour described reports about imminent dialogue between the leaders of the north and south Yemen as very encouraging. There is no doubt that the war can achieve nothing for either of the two sides and that only through dialogue and reason can the leaders overcome the obstacles impeding reconciliation, said the paper.

The paper voiced backing to initiatives on the part of northern Yemeni leaders to seek dialogue with the more moderate elements of the Socialist Party in the south, stressing that the most important thing at the moment is to stop the bloodshed and end the sufferings of the Yemeni people at all costs.

Mahmoud Rimawi, a columnist in *Al Ra'i*, said that the Yemeni leaders won the admiration of Arab masses when they settled their differences with the signing in Amman of a treaty for reconciliation but the same leaders lost credibility when they started a war between their two sides of the United Nations. The writer said that civil wars do not gain the support of any one except those who seek destruction of the country and an end to the Yemeni people's unity. Neither does the use of force to ensure continued unity between the north and south win the admiration of the Arab masses. The same leaders can regain credibility and support from everyone if they opt for reason and dialogue and end the confrontation, added the writer.

It is clear now that neither of the two sides in the Yemeni civil war can gain the upper hand and impose his will on the other, said Mohammad Kharroub, a columnist in *Al Ra'i*. The writer said that all indications point to the fact that the civil strife will go on for a long time, with detrimental consequences to the Yemeni people and their national economy and institutions. The longer the fighting goes on, the deeper will be the chasm separating the



### THE WEEK IN PRINT

## Yemenis should give talk a chance

two sides and making a re-united Yemen a very remote possibility in many years to come."

Al Ra'i daily described Israel's bombing of resistance positions in Lebanon as an attempt to undermine any success along the Lebanese-Israeli track in the peace process. Also by its insistence not to implement U.N. Security Council Resolution 425, calling for Israeli withdrawal from southern Lebanon, Israel is showing no intention of ever reaching a peaceful settlement with its northern Arab neighbour, said the daily. Israel's escalation of its attacks on Lebanon and abduction of leaders of the resistance, said the paper, can never contribute to peace in the region.

Referring to autonomy

rule in Gaza and Jericho, a writer in *Al Ra'i* said that the Israeli authorities are acting in a manner that shows their disinterest in the implementation of the autonomy deal with the Palestinians.

Yousef Mahmoud said that the Israeli leaders and their media are escalating the tension by attacking Palestinian Liberation Organisation (PLO) leader Yasser Arafat for his call for jihad to save Jerusalem and because the Palestinian resistance killed two Israeli soldiers near Gaza recently. The Israelis, said the writer, are enlisting the help of Europeans to coerce Mr. Arafat into accepting humiliating terms and this is manifest in the Europeans' demand that the Arabs end their boycott of Israel to guarantee aid to the Palesti-

nians.

Mohammad Kawash, a columnist in *Al Dustour*, said that the presence of the Jewish settlers in the Mideast of Arab inhabitants remains the main stumbling block impeding any progress in the peace process in general and the establishment of self-rule for Palestinians in particular. Any time a settler enters an Arab zone he is exposed to danger and Israel realises this fact but retains this explosive status quo, said the writer. In light of such attitude, Israel is not showing serious intentions of seeing the autonomy rule fulfilling its objectives at a time when the Palestinian authority does not yet stand on solid ground and has not yet set up institutions to enhance its presence in the Jenicho and Gaza regions.

A columnist in *Al Dustour* daily tackled the current situation in the public administration expressing regret that the government's drive to introduce reform is being met with stiff resistance.

Expressing support for, and solidarity with, the prime minister for trying to introduce the reform and place the right person in the right position, Abdullah Al Khatib said that decentralisation sought by the government is far from being achieved since, according to his own recent experiences, cabinet ministers still hold the final say in most of the questions related to their offices. Stressing that senior officials who are clinging hard to the traditional routine, the writer said that reform in public adminis-

tration remains a wishful thinking and out of reach even under the umbrella of democracy.

Nazih Qusus, a columnist in *Sawt Al Shaab*, daily, drew attention to the fact that dairy processing firms are not abiding by regulations concerning the fitness of dairy products sold on the market.

Large quantities of yoghurt, which are returned to the plants from the stores upon their expiry dates are more often than not re-produced in the form of labanah and their containers stamped with new expiry dates, said the writer.

He said that the Ministry of Supply ought to impose strict control on the dairy processing plants and prevent this manipulation and cheating.

Washington bluff over MFN rested on the savvy belief that the United States would never jeopardise a \$40-billion a year trade relationship and cause U.S. companies to be blocked from the world's fastest-growing market.

The extent of Beijing's confidence became apparent in March when it bumbled U.S. Secretary of State Warren Christopher by launching a major sweep on dissidents as he arrived here for talks with Chinese leaders.

"They made clear the more Clinton pushed, the more he would lose face," he said. Diplomats here welcomed Mr. Clinton's decision to abandon his policy of linking trade to human rights, saying any breakdown in Sino-U.S. ties could have far-reaching repercussions for re-

gional and international trade, geo-political alignments and cooperation in multilateral forums.

However, they warned Beijing's success in facing down Washington would also have repercussions for China's handling of bilateral disputes in future.

"China will become more bullish. The Chinese wanted a big victory over the United States. This will raise their self-esteem and national pride and help China's fledgling attempt to become a major regional power," said one diplomat.

Chinese officials appeared smug over their victory Friday, with the foreign ministry welcoming Mr. Clinton's move while urging the United States to go further and lift all remaining sanctions on Chi-

na's rights, at a time when high inflation, rising unemployment and the prospect of 89-year-old paramount leader Deng Xiaoping's death are heightening concern about social stability.

However, diplomats — while not discounting a crack-down in the run-up to the fifth anniversary of the Tiananmen massacre — disagreed that the move would have much impact domestically, saying China had in any case done little to influence the U.S. decision.

"Three or four people benefited, but in terms of overall human rights it didn't have much impact," a diplomat said, urging Washington to find a suitable forum for expressing its concerns on the issue more effectively.

## Tough line brings major victory for China, humiliates U.S.

he would delink trade from human rights in the future, limiting punishment of China's intransigence to imposing a ban on imports of Chinese guns and ammunition and retaining sanctions in place since the 1989 Tiananmen massacre.

The munitions ban is estimated to be worth \$200 million less than one per cent of China's \$22-billion trade surplus with the United States. "China made clear the more Clinton pushed, the more he would lose face," he said. Diplomats here welcomed Mr. Clinton's decision to abandon his policy of linking trade to human rights, saying any breakdown in Sino-U.S. ties could have far-reaching repercussions for re-

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## On the front line in Croatia

## Jordanian soldiers keep the peace in a land of war

LAST WEEK, around 100 Jordanian soldiers left for former Yugoslavia to join other Jordanian peacekeepers who form the second largest contingent in the war-torn country. Jordan Times Staff Reporter Ica Wahbeh earlier this month visited the Jordanian contingent in Croatia and spent a week observing their mission there. She filed the following report, the second part of which will appear later this week.

AMMAN — Life and death. Love and hate. War and peace. Creation and destruction.

This is former Yugoslavia where, after four years of fierce fighting, these forces have come to define the life of the land and its people.

A land of paradoxes itself, this country of complicated history and incomprehensible contemporary drama gave new meaning to words stashed away in my genetic human heritage.

On a drizzly early afternoon in May our plane lands in Zagreb, capital of Croatia. "Nothing unusual," I think to myself waiting at the airport along with other journalists, until the 150 or so young French soldiers start filling the airport hall with the nonchalance of youth and ignorance.

The "blue berets" are here, like our Jordanian troops, to keep peace in a land of deep-hurled hatred and savage revenge.

It takes some time to clear out of the airport (a first taste of "love" for the U.N. presence on this territory), but with the help of Maj. Issam Nahsul, a member of the Jordanian peacekeeping force in Croatia, our delegation finally gets on the about 50 km ride to the United Nations Protection Force (UNPROFOR) headquarters in Zagreb. The ride is done in a peaceful atmosphere among lush vegetation and flower-sprinkled fields. People going about their work give life an air of normalcy that belies the cruelty witnessed a few hundred kilometres away on the war front.

Our first destination, the

place where the Jordanian troops were first stationed in May 1992, is Novska, 100 km south east of Zagreb.

Deputy Commander Col. Tawfiq Hamed Tawalbeh makes an excellent guide for a first-timer in the area. The soft-spoken, tall man drives us through an emerald green landscape on a straight highway leading from the capital to this village at the border between Serbs and Croats.

The village looks prosperous; people live off their land and some industries around (oil extraction, chemical). Most villagers seem to be rebuilding houses that carry the marks of the war which erupted when Croatia declared its independence from former Yugoslavia.

The reality is that had it not been for the Jordanian peacekeepers, who arrived in the city after the Serbs and the Croats reached a ceasefire agreement, the beautiful homes that so warmly received us would have been deserted.

The first Jordanian battalion, Jordan I, as it is known in military terminology, is led by Col. Sami Abu Zeid.

"When we first came here, the village was deserted. Slowly, as people realised that we are here to preserve peace and there is no more danger to their lives, they started trickling back to the village," says Col. Abu Zeid, taking us on a tour of the surroundings. "Now they lead a normal life," he explains while waving to children on the sidewalk. They all know him, as does everybody on a wide radius around.

The eastern sector of the



Jordan I soldier on alert at a checkpoint between Serbs and Croats (photo by Ica Wahbeh)

village, once inhabited by Serbs, looks as if it had been eaten by smallpox. From bullet holes to whole floors blown off and concrete poles with steel reinforcement twisted and bent out of shape like children toys, the village spells destruction.

"I do not understand this war," a young Croatian woman says. "We had Serb friends, very good friends. And then the war started and we all changed."

Sector West, as this territory is known, has the Sava River forming the border with Bosnia-Herzegovina in the south. The nature of the terrain is such that a map with the separation lines and the separation zone drawn on it looks like some puzzle bits, full of tricky curves and angles.

"When we first came here, the village was deserted. Slowly, as people realised that we are here to preserve peace and there is no more danger to their lives, they started trickling back to the village" — Col. Sami Abu Zeid

The Europe-Asia highway which passes through this sector is now closed. UNPROFOR uses it for refugees or movement from Croatia to Bosnia-Herzegovina. The ceasefire line separates the Croats, to the northwest, from the Serbs, to the southeast.

The Jordanian soldiers deal with the two sides professionally and are equally appreciated by both. The battalion has three infantry,

one mechanised, one special forces and one headquarters companies. They have five corps: medical, engineering, maintenance, supply and telecommunication, served by 914 soldiers.

The mission of the battalion, as Col. Abu Zeid details it, is to protect civilians and U.N. personnel and the movement of all. There are several checkpoints manned by Jordanian soldiers and the buffer zone is under their supervision as well.

Problems faced? "Each side wants more than it is allowed or given by U.N. resolutions and what they had agreed upon."

On March 29, a ceasefire agreement was signed between the Croatian government and Serb authorities under U.S., Russian, European Union (EU) and U.N. auspices. Among the provisions of the pact there are those regarding withdrawal of weapons from the separation zone to degrees varying according to the nature of the arms: heavy artillery 20 km, medium-range 10 km and infantry and light artillery from two to four kilometres. The Jordanian mandate covers checking on this withdrawal as well.

One can only guess whether it is a difficult task or not. Not one soldier ever complains. All one can detect is pride in a mission performed to the best of their ability.

In Poljana, where one of the Jordanian infantry companies is situated, non-commissioned officer (NCO) Adnan Ali Abed says: "We perform our duty irrespective of the weather conditions or difficulties. People respect us; we have no problems."

During an evening tour of Novska a call crackles on the radio. Anca, the old woman who made the news as the only person left in her village and whom the Jordanians look after, was seriously sick. The worried officer, Col. Abu Zeid, starts inquiring about her. Before we leave Novska, she is out of hospital.

The same officer is the toast of a Swedish media group which have the surprise to find him in the funeral procession of a Serb killed by friendly fire. The weathered colonel has time to show care to the people for whose peace keeping he is responsible.

On the third day after our arrival in Novska (and what felt like a hundred years of experience and information bits) we leave the village for Sector South where Jordan III is located.

The municipality of Gracac, including Lovinac where the Jordanian troops are positioned, is in the middle of Serb-controlled Krajina.

Sector South, like every other sector on the map, is not controlled by Jordanians alone. There are also Croats, Canadians and Kenyans. Our boys are in some of the most interesting, if not dangerous, areas of the sector.

Col. Mahmoud Saleh Maharmeh, the commander of the Jordanian troops in Sector South, talks about the takeover from the Cana-

dians, about the deployment of troops from Split (on the Adriatic Sea) to Lovinac about the 36 places in by our soldiers.

The March 29 pact for arms collection po both sides: Serbs and Croats. "We monitor all that goes. We have difficult weather conditions and geograph mountains covered with snow until summer, water helicopter as nothing move easily, limit movement due to the natural terrain which makes portation difficult," s. Maharmeh.

No description would have prepared the grueling trip the next to the top of the Debes (some call it Vilabel Alan) mountains.

The serpentine p road could be an er, desolate, grey granite, rugged peaks profile bizarre shapes on changing skies.

The 30 to 40 soldiers stationed on the mountain peak (slopes of which were still covered by snow) at around 1,100m altitude are a special forces platoon for whom the engineering corps had cleared four kilometres of land. Barbed wire surrounds them and a tent is raised to protect against the wind.

The gale is cutting like a knife through the patched fatigue jackets brightened by blue collars and berets. "It must be hard for our people to live for such a long stretch of time without seeing anyone and under hostile weather conditions," I am thinking like a pr-wrong.

"We are here for a humanitariao cause," Staff Sergeant Naeel Alagarmeh says.

The duty of the platoon is to monitor respect of ceasefire, to patrol the separation zone (20 km) between Serbs and Croats and to communicate any suspicious move to Jordan III.

## Israel lifts closure

(Continued from page 1)

ramme." The PNA met Thursday night for the first time since taking on responsibility for running the West Bank town of Jericho and the Gaza Strip. The meeting was attended by Farouk Kadoum and Mahmoud Abbas, two members in Mr. Arafat's mainstream Fatah movement who are not members of the interim government.

It resumed the meeting on Friday at Mr. Arafat's office.

Reporters noted the presence of Hanan Ashrawi, former spokeswoman of Palestinian peace negotiators. She accepted appointment to the 24-member PNA after earlier turning it down.

On Thursday, the PLO named Abdul Hafidh Al Ashhab, a leader from the West Bank town of Hebron, as the 19th member of the PNA. Al Ashhab and other PNA members, Riyad Zaanoun and Sari Nuseibeh, from the occupied territories did not make it to Tunis in time for the meeting.

PLO sources say Mr. Nuseibeh has not confirmed acceptance of his nomination while Mr. Zaanoun has a

## Israel considering

(Continued from page 1)

problem with his passport. The PNA decided to create 22 portfolios, but still has to assign the duties of "ministers," who were to swear an oath of office Friday Mr. Ghoshen said.

The PNA stresses that it has an interim role until "democratic and free" elections in the self-rule area which are expected some time between July and October.

The constitution was drafted by senior PLO figures.

The PLO's London-based Legal Committee fixed a copy of the 21-page draft to the Associated Press in Jerusalem.

Article 5, on the first page, unequivocally declares Jerusalem as "the capital of Palestine."

It goes on to say that "during the transitional period, the Palestinian authorities may set up the government headquarters in any other place in Palestine." The Palestinian Authority plans to set up office in Jericho pending resolution of the Jerusalem issue.

Sources close to Mr. Rabin told the respected Haaretz daily that the document was the "most serious violation of the Gaza-Jericho agreement to date."

Mr. Rabin has said the facts on the ground, and not words are what's important. "It's all about," he was quoted by Haaretz as reacting to the constitution.

"Just as the Israelis have repeatedly declared Jerusalem their own eternal capital, we have the right to declare it our own capital," Legal Committee Chairman Anis Qassem told the AP in a telephone interview from his London office.

Israelis are also angry because they say that legislation should be left up to the 24-member Palestinian Authority, which has yet to be named and

reviewed by a joint Israeli-Palestinian Committee.

But Mr. Qassem, an author of the document, said it was less a constitution and more a "basic laws document... the first step towards a constitution."

More articles dealing with sovereignty issues such as borders and statehood will be added to the basic law document during the five-year self-rule, Mr. Qassem said.

That is also likely to anger Israelis, who would like to leave the issue of statehood undecided during the self-rule.

The PLO legal committee drafted the 108-article document since October, shortly after the Sept. 13 signing of the Declaration of Principles.

The document defines Jerusalem as a city holy to the "three divine religions," Islam, Christianity and Judaism. Article 31 says that Palestinian authorities will provide conditions for tolerant coexistence between religions in Jerusalem and the rest of Palestine and the rest of Palestine.

The document limits the presidential term to five years only, without extension, a nod towards Palestinians suspicious of Mr. Arafat's autocratic tendencies.

"The first term of the first president and any successor in the transitional period shall expire with expiry of the transitional period," Article 52 says.

Fundamental rights and freedoms are also guaranteed according to standard international agreements.

The document incorporates the current PLO hierarchy into the government of the self-rule, naming the current Mr. Arafat, as the head of the national authority. It also preserves the by-laws of the Palestinian parliament-in-exile, the Palestine National Council.

## South pushes back

(Continued from page 1)

May 1990 between the conservative, tribal North Yemen and former Marxist South.

Abdul Rahman Al Jifri, vice president of the breakaway state with its capital in Aden, had said the Saudi proposal was welcome. "But we are strong enough to defend ourselves and our capital," he said.

In Sanaa, Mr. Saleh has appointed new ministers of oil and transport in a further bid to isolate supporters of Mr. Al Beidh.

Mr. Saleh appointed Faisal Uthman Ibn Shamlan, a southerner, as minister of petroleum and minerals

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## Lebanon seeks

(Continued from page 1)

Lebanon have denied holding Mr. Arad.

Meanwhile, Israeli-backed militiamen captured a Muslim guerrilla outside Israel's occupation zone in south Lebanon on Friday, security sources said.

South Lebanon Army (SLA) militiamen seized the guerrilla, identified as belonging to the pro-Iranian Hezbollah group, on Nabi Taha Hill just outside the zone, they added.

The guerrilla was armed with an AK-47 assault rifle.

Hezbollah (Party of God) guerrillas launch attacks almost daily on the Israeli-held zone in their bid to liberate south Lebanon.

## PLO unseals

(Continued from page 1)

not comment on the details until the investigation was completed.

Palestinian police took control of the Gaza Strip on May 18. Israel has said that expanding autonomy to other occupied territory will depend on running Gaza and Jericho successfully and foiling attacks on Israel.

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not comment on the details until the investigation was completed.

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Chinese Foreign Ministry spokesman Wu Jianmin jokes with reporters after the Friday weekly press conference in Beijing. Mr. Wu commented on U.S. President Clinton's announcement that the U.S. would renew China's most favoured nation (MFN) trading status (AFP photo).

## U.S. business in China delighted with MFN renewal

SHANGHAI (R) — The U.S. business community in China heaved a sigh of relief Friday over President Bill Clinton's decision to renew most favoured nation (MFN) trade status for China and said exports and investment would surge.

"Let's declare victory and move onto the next issue," said Phil Carmichael, president of the American Chamber of Commerce in Beijing.

Beijing has welcomed the decision saying it will create favourable conditions for better relations and the Shanghai city government said MFN renewal would help develop Shanghai, eager to rival Tokyo and Hong Kong as the New York of Asia.

Most American executives learned of the news from television as they sipped their morning coffee and croissants.

"It was a tough decision but the right one," said James Williams, a board member of the American Chamber of Commerce in Shanghai and senior officer of the insurance firm American International Group.

His pen still wet from a contract signed Thursday to set up his company's first joint venture in China, Jack Shaw, chairman and chief executive officer of Hughes Network Systems, described Mr. Clinton's decision as very positive.

"The fear that it would not be extended was like a dagger over our head," Mr. Shaw said. "When you withhold something, it only causes the country involved to go somewhere else to buy it. It is hard to see who that penalises except yourself."

Mr. Carmichael said the chamber was pleased Mr. Clinton got the message that "trying trade to human rights simply doesn't work".

Mr. Clinton's decision to uncouple the two issues was just as important as the MFN renewal and would free U.S. businesses in China from a major competitive disadvan-

tage, he said.

Mr. Carmichael forecast China's huge trade surplus with the United States, which hit \$23 billion last year, to fall as more U.S. companies expanded their Chinese operations and Chinese enterprises became more confident of the long-term reliability of U.S. business links.

He said U.S. businesses in China were willing to discuss Mr. Clinton's suggestion of a "voluntary code of conduct" to ensure human-rights concerns were addressed, but said the companies were in general already following their own codes of business ethics.

"That probably already covers what the president was referring to," Mr. Carmichael said, adding that he saw no reason to set up special standards for China.

The chamber did not support Mr. Clinton's decision to ban certain Chinese guns and munitions exports to the United States and keep sanctions on several items that were targeted after the 1989 Timamien Square crackdown.

"We wish there had been no conditions at all," Mr. Carmichael said.

U.S. business is eager not to be left out of China's investment boom and regards the MFN decision as clearing the way for a greater U.S. presence in the world's fastest growing major economy.

Chinese figures show contracted foreign investment in 1993 in China was \$110.9 billion, up 50.7 per cent on 1992, with actual foreign investment \$25.76 billion, up 130 per cent.

"East Asia and China is where the action is going to be," an American executive in Shanghai said.

The Shanghai Stock Market's B-share index, which measures trading by foreigners, surged nearly five per cent on news of the MFN renewal on Friday. The index closed up 3.56 points at 75.55 on heavy volume.

## Weekly analysis of movements, trends of major world currencies

This report is provided by Naser Nabulsi, private client group at Merrill Lynch — Dubai. Rates where applicable, are given as of Wednesday, May 25, 1994.

### Overview

**Fundamental View:** We are trimming our forecast for the dollar against the DeutscheMark (again), based mainly on the view that most of the news that might have been expected to help the dollar is already behind us. U.S. rates have moved up, but are expected to stabilise for a while or rise only marginally over the course of the year. Germany has eased policy more rapidly than expected, but is also likely to pause for some time this summer.

On balance, we now expect the dollar to remain in the DM 1.60-to-1.70 range for most of the next year, and have moved our 12-month target down from DM 1.75 to DM 1.70. We still expect Japan's trade surplus — politics or not — to keep upward pressure on the yen in the long term, and maintain our 12-month target of JPY/USD 95.

**Technical View:** Six of the seven currencies that we most regularly monitor rallied against the U.S. dollar last week (the exception was the Canadian dollar). As a result, the dollar index suffered its first loss in three weeks with a 1.1 per cent decline. However, momentum appears to be bottoming, and a momentum reversal (from down to up) would not be surprising in the next week or two. This, together with the fact that sentiment readings are approaching oversold conditions, suggests that the dollar's 1994 correction is coming to an end.

We continue, therefore, to anticipate a summer rally by the dollar. Support exists at 91.20 and 90.30. The ability to rally back through the 93.50-94.00 range would aid momentum and would add substance to the bottom-building argument; a move through 95.30 would likely confirm it.

### Japanese yen

**Fundamental View:** The dollar has been boosted to the 104 level against the yen, based partly on an agreement by the U.S. and Japan to resume trade talks. This has improved the tone of U.S.-Japan relations for the time being, and suggests that both sides will simply "agree to disagree" on numerous trade issues. The agreement is consistent with various signals from the Clinton administration since early May that suggest policy has shifted toward accepting higher interest rates and encouraging a stronger dollar. But the yen could prove to be difficult to stabilise because of Japan's financial problems and the sheer size of Japan's current account imbalance. Even with the recent hike in U.S. interest rates, it is not clear that Japanese investors are willing or able to finance the imbalance after having suffered large losses on their foreign and domestic investments in recent years.

Thus, persistent dollar-buying efforts by the central banks may be needed for some time to come to keep the breaking through the JPY/USD 100 level. We continue to expect Japan to post a current account surplus of more than \$125 billion this year. We expect the weight of that surplus, relative to underlying private sector capital flows, to push the dollar toward our 12-month target of 95 yen.

**Technical View:** The Japanese yen gained 0.9 per cent versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended May 20. Sentiment remains neutral. Short term momentum is bottoming, so renewed yen strength is possible and at least raises the possibility of a challenge of the recent highs. However, medium term indicators have peaked, so any near term strength will not likely be confirmed and may only serve to compound the topping process. This would further build the evidence that the rally from at least last March's low (near 106 Yen/U.S.\$), and quite likely from last January's low (near 113) is ending.

Given that long term oscillators are also deteriorating, the currency may well be positioning itself for its most extended period of weakness in months — possible short term strength notwithstanding. The pressures continue to mount. Support at 106-112 is viewed as being significant; a breakdown through that range would do much to confirm the existence of a top. Benchmark resistance remains at 97-98.

### Deutschmark

**Fundamental View:** We are trimming our forecast for the dollar against the DeutscheMark (again), based mainly on the view that most of the news that might have been expected to help the dollar is already behind us. U.S. rates have moved up, but are expected to stabilise for a while or rise only marginally over the course of the year. Germany has eased policy more rapidly than expected, but is also likely to pause for some time this summer because M-3 money growth at an annual rate of 15.8 per cent in March remains far above the Bundesbank's target ceiling of 6 per cent. With German inflation expected to fall to about 2 per cent early next year as short-term interest rates fall to 4 per cent, real interest rates in Germany actually seem set to rise relative to U.S. real rates.

That view is based on our U.S. economics unit's forecast that the Fed funds rate will stabilise at 4.5 per cent for an extended

period against steady CPI inflation of about 3 per cent. Moreover, any tendency for the dollar to remain weak against the yen could have spillover effects on European currencies as well, especially against a backdrop of confidence issues regarding eroding confidence in U.S. foreign policy, concern about greater inflation tolerance among new members of the Fed, etc.

On balance, we now expect the dollar to remain in the DM 1.60-to-1.70 range for most of the next year, and have moved our 12-month target down from DM 1.75 to DM 1.70.

**Technical View:** The DeutscheMark rallied 1.5 per cent against the U.S. dollar last week. Sentiment is now viewed as being near overbought. Short term momentum is weak, and medium term oscillators are peaking. This suggests that renewed short term strength may be required to put the final pieces to a top in place. Nonetheless, a decline through 1.675-1.695 DM/U.S.\$ would indicate that a top is in place and allow for 1.72-1.73.

First resistance remains at 1.63-1.64 DM/U.S.\$, with second resistance at last October's high near 1.59. The mark/yen cross-rate is at its highest level since late January. While medium term momentum is constructive, short term momentum is peaking. With the existence of a multi-month trading range, basing pattern, weakness in coming weeks could complete a longer term low and set the stage for an important, intermediate rally.

### Pound sterling

**Fundamental View:** The British pound moved lower against the DeutscheMark to DM/GBP 2.49 this week and continued to trade near U.S./GBP 1.51. The pound has been unable to benefit from a rising short-term rate premium against the DM because of political uncertainty surrounding the June 9th European elections. A poor performance by the conservatives would significantly increase pressure on John Major to resign as prime minister. Additionally, the pound has been hurt by diminished anti-inflation credibility of the U.K. authorities following perceptions that the last base rate cut was politically motivated. We believe that U.K. base rates have bottomed, but we think they are unlikely to be raised this year because we foresee no upward pressure on inflation in light of significant spare capacity.

A modest uptick in U.K. short-term rates coupled with a series of sizable German rate cuts should lead to the pound up to DM/GBP 2.55 in 12 months. The pound should also be supported by a substantial yield premium over German bonds. We expect the pound to trade at U.S./GBP 1.50 in 12 months as pound appreciation against the DM is roughly offset by DM depreciation against the dollar.

**Technical View:** The British pound rallied 0.5 per cent versus the U.S. dollar during the week ended May 20. Sentiment is still neutral, but deteriorating. Short term momentum is bottoming, suggesting near term strength. First resistance exists at \$1.52, and second resistance is at \$1.55. The lower end of the trading range at 1.46 U.S./£1 is support; a break below that would allow for at least a test of the 1993 low near \$1.43 and possibly long term support at \$1.40-\$1.42.

### Swiss franc

**Fundamental View:** The Swiss franc remained near S.F./DM 0.85 this week and strengthened a bit against the dollar to S.F./U.S.\$1.40. Although economic recovery has been underway since last summer, Switzerland's domestic economy remains extremely weak. Slow growth is moderating wage gains, and consumer price inflation may dip below 1.0 per cent over the summer. That has fuelled speculation that the central bank will continue to ease monetary policy. But real Swiss rates should remain high despite potential nominal rate cuts due to the improved inflation outlook.

We expect the franc to trade at its current rate of S.F./DM 0.85 in 12 months. We anticipate a fairly high degree of market volatility to continue in Europe in the near term. Such an environment should benefit the Swiss franc. The franc should also benefit from any additional switching out of U.S./\$ assets should concerns about the Fed's credibility resurface. We expect the franc to trade at S.F./U.S.\$ 1.44 in 12 months.

**Technical View:** The Swiss franc rallied 1.6 per cent versus the greenback during the week ended May 20, making it the strongest of the six major currencies we monitor. Sentiment is neutral, but deteriorating. Short term momentum has been down, but is bottoming. Medium term momentum, however, is peaking. This latter point, plus the recent successful test of indicated resistance at 1.39 S.F./U.S.\$, suggests that the pressures should increasingly be to the downside.

A challenge of nearby support at 1.454 appears likely. Short term momentum for the DM cross-rate has been weak recently, but medium term oscillators still have an upward bias. Thus, the underlying intermediate uptrend is likely still intact and nearby corrections should be well-contained.

### Canadian dollar

**Fundamental View:** The Canadian dollar continued to trade this week around CS/U.S.\$ 1.38, close to an eight-year low near

CS/U.S.\$ 1.40 set in April. The CS has been weighed down by large provincial budget deficits. But two recent news items were supportive of the currency: (1) Quebec's 1994-95 budget release was modestly better than market expectations; (2) S&P affirmed Ontario's debt rating.

If conditions in the U.S. bond market become favourable, international investors may return to all U.S.-bloc bonds, and this should boost the CS. Other sources of support for the currency include continuing strength in Canada's economic recovery and an upturn in commodity prices.

**Technical View:** The Canadian dollar fell 0.1 per cent against the U.S. dollar last week and was the weakest of the six major currencies we most closely monitor. Sentiment remains oversold and both short and medium term indicators are bottoming.

While this suggests that an important low is forming, the post-1991 downturn channel remains intact; it would require a rally through 1.33-1.34 CS/U.S.\$ over the near term to break that channel. Support is through \$1.40 to \$1.42. Medium term momentum for the DM/CS cross is bottoming. This is viewed as further evidence that the currency itself is setting the stage for a decent rally.

### Australian dollar

**Fundamental View:** The Australian dollar moved up again this week through the U.S./\$ 0.73 level — its strongest level since September of 1992 — supported by a continuing upturn in commodity prices and gains in Australian bond and equity markets. Growing confidence in world economic recovery and modest declines in commodity stocks should lead to further strength in commodities. GDP growth this year at a projected 3.5 per cent rate is considerably above our expectations for Europe and Japan. That should support the AS. Employment is still growing rapidly, pushing down the unemployment rate. We expect monetary policy to tighten modestly beginning in the third quarter, providing a boost to the AS. The recovery thus far has not been accompanied by signs of rising inflation or a sharp deterioration in the current deficit, as was the case in typical past recoveries. The upturn in business investment should ensure that capacity remains adequate to satisfy domestic and foreign demand through 1995. We expect CPI inflation to remain near 2 per cent in 1994.

We expect the AS to appreciate to U.S./\$ AS 0.75 in twelve months because commodity prices and export volumes are likely to rise as a result of expanding industrial production in the G-7 nations.

**Technical View:** The Australian dollar rallied 0.8 per cent against the U.S. dollar during the week ended May 20 and, in the process, made new 1994 highs. Despite this, sentiment has improved to the point where it is viewed as oversold. Short term momentum has reflected this recent strength, but medium term momentum is down and has not confirmed this rally. Thus, this is in turn could lead to a more severe correction later on.

Nonetheless, indicated resistance at 0.75 U.S./\$AS will be watched if this newly developed uptrend continues. As for support, a break below \$0.699 and \$0.69. Longer term, we believe that the entire post-1983 downturn is over and that a new long term uptrend is in its early stages.

## HOROSCOPE

FORECAST FOR SATURDAY MAY 28, 1994

By Thomas S. Pierson, Astrologer, Carroll Righter Foundation

**GENERAL TENDENCIES:** Strive to make progress in your line of endeavour but make sure that you don't do anything that will upset one who has any authority over you. Modern treatment improves your health and well-being.

**ARIES:** (March 21 to April 19) Study new philosophies of life that can be helpful in the future. Make sure your personal life is well organised the way you desire.

**TAURUS:** (April 20 to May 20) Take time to talk with influential persons who can help you in your career. Obtain new ideas of worth from friends to use.

**GEMINI:** (May 21 to June 21) Make sure you keep important promises made to others and gain their goodwill and respect. Express happiness to your mate and loved ones.

**MOON CHILDREN:** (June 22 to July 21) Contact new allies who can be helpful to you in new enterprises. Engage in your favorite hobby for some truly good time.

**LEO:** (July 22 to August 21) This is an ideal day to get busy on important duties you've been putting off for a long time. Take needed health treatments for your best.

**VIRGO:** (August 22 to September 22) Study your surroundings and make plans for improvement. Contact influential persons who can be helpful to you on an important vital project.

**LIBRA:** (September 23 to October 22) An ideal day to join congenials at recreations you enjoy. Take a look at a new interest that could prove profitable in the future.

**SCORPIO:** (October 23 to November 21) Go to the right sources to gather the data you need in order to make your life more successful in the future from a new project in the works.

**SAGITTARIUS:** (November 22 to December 21) Be more concerned with money matters since rising prices require that you have more money. Think constructively.

**CAPRICORN:** (December 22 to January 20) You have a good chance to get what you go after today. A fine talent you have can be expressed at this time which make you very successful.

**AQUARIUS:** (January 21 to February 19) Show that you have good common sense and gain the respect of others. Discuss personal plans with friends who can give you some assistance.

**PISCES:** (February 20 to March 20) Study positive ways to improve the quality of your life. Show more affection for family members. Show that you have wisdom to handle any situation.





## Bosnian rivals are still far apart on division of land

SARAJEVO (R) — Bosnian Serbs said Friday the positions of Bosnia's warring factions on how to divide up the country were still far apart following two-day talks this week.

This pessimistic view was in contrast to a comment by French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe that an agreement to end the bloody conflict appeared to be within reach.

The chief Serb negotiator, Momicilo Krajisnik, speaker of their self-styled parliament, told Bosnian Serb television "nothing qualitatively new was achieved" at the talks in Talloires, France, which ended Thursday without apparent agreement.

Government-controlled Bosnian Radio said the talks with a "contact group" of mediators from the United States, Russia and the European Union would resume in France in 10 days time.

In Bosnia itself heavy fighting was reported to be raging in the north and centre between Muslim-led government troops backed by their new Croat allies and the Serbs.

Gradačac, in the north, was reported by Bosnian radio to be under heavy Serb artillery and infantry attack from early Friday morning.

"This is the most difficult morning since July 1992 — it's

like hell here," a ham radio operator in the town was quoted as saying.

Mr. Krajisnik told Bosnian Serb television that the Talloires talks could be seen as positive "because some information was exchanged and some dilemmas about the Bosnian crisis were explained," according to the Bosnian Serb news agency (SRNA).

But he added: "The differences between the two sides are considerable and great efforts are needed for a final solution to be reached because the Muslim is persistently making its stand more radical, insisting on the war option."

The Muslim-Croat alliance indicated at the talks they were ready to modify their territorial demands and "partly accepted" a proposal by international mediators giving them 51 per cent of the country.

The Serbs, who control 70 per cent and would get 49 per cent under the new plan, accused the Muslims of making "megalomaniac demands."

In Paris, Mr. Juppe told Radio France Internationale Friday: "We're at a crucial stage. I think the coming weeks between now and July will be decisive."

Mr. Juppe said international negotiators were seeking to impose a ceasefire, set Bosnia's

borders, establish governing institutions in the former Yugoslav republic and begin rebuilding the country.

"I think it's within our reach."

Last week Mr. Juppe said there must be marked progress towards peace in Bosnia by a mid-June meeting of big power foreign ministers or else France would prepare to withdraw some of its U.N. peacekeepers from northern Bosnia by year-end.

"If we are just standing still, if we are refused any diplomatic breakthrough, then we will have to revise our policy," he said Friday.

In Sarajevo, a spokesman for the U.N. Protection Force, Major Rob Annink, said a prisoner exchange between the Bosnian government and the Serbs had fallen through Thursday after the Bosnian side refused to release its detainees.

The need for an exchange arose when two Muslim engineers on a repair mission took a wrong turn about two weeks ago and were detained at a Serb checkpoint outside Sarajevo.

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Ships arrive at Miragane 100 kilometres from Port Au Prince with flour and clothes. The total U.N. embargo against Haiti imposed since May 21 allows for the delivery of humanitarian aid (AFP photo)

## U.S. lawmakers fear invasion of Haiti during Memorial Day recess

WASHINGTON (AFP) — Republican lawmakers fear a U.S. invasion of Haiti during the Memorial Day recess and have urged President Bill Clinton not to authorise force, but expedite a processing facility for Haitian refugees.

"I really hope the president does not plan to invade Haiti during the recess," Representative Newt Gingrich, Republican for Georgia, said before Congress adjourned Thursday to reconvene June 7.

Representative Porter Goss, who asked the president to immediately stop repatriating Haitian boat people, said the presence of 650 Marines and eight U.S. warships off the coast of Haiti seemed very threatening.

"Our message is: Do not use that muscle at this time," the Florida Republican told reporters.

On announcing on May 7 his decision to give Haitian re-

fugees immigration hearings before repatriating them, Mr. Clinton did not rule out military force to restore democracy and ousted President Jean-Bertrand Aristide in Haiti.

The House of Representatives this week approved a nonbinding amendment recommending that a small Haitian island be used as a refugee processing centre and a base for a government in exile headed by Mr. Aristide.

A spokesman for Mr. Aristide

voiced support Thursday for using Ile De La Gonave as a processing centre — "Anything is better than sending them back to that hell hole," but not for establishing on it a government in exile.

Mr. Goss mentioned freezing the assets here of all Haitians, not just military leaders, and cancelling all visas.

"It's almost as if the (Clinton) administration is pushing itself into the inevitability of either a military assault... or forcing Aristide to share power," the spokesman said.

A group of Democratic congressmen asked Mr. Clinton Thursday to halt the repatriation of Haitian refugees immediately, in view of a new Haitian law making it illegal to leave the island in makeshift boats.

## Gay group seeks pardon for Oscar Wilde

LONDON (AP) — A gay rights group is seeking a posthumous royal pardon for 19th century playwright Oscar Wilde, who was jailed as a result of a homosexual relationship 99 years ago. Outrage said that it had written to Queen Elizabeth II asking her to pardon Wilde, who wrote the novel *The Picture of Dorian Gray*, and plays including *The Importance of Being Earnest* and *Lady Windermere's Fan*. "Wilde was the victim of unjust laws," said Outrage spokesman Peter Tatchell.

"His imprisonment is a stain on the judicial system," Mr. Tatchell said. The cruel conditions of Victorian prisons led to Wilde's premature death at the age of 46, three years after he was released. Wilde's experience of prison prompted his poem, *The Ballad of Reading Gaol*, and *De Profundis* was written in prison. Wilde's infatuation with the young Lord Alfred Douglas led to his imprisonment. Douglas's father, the 8th Marquess of Queensbury, accused Wilde of sodomy and goaded him into suing for libel. Wilde lost the case and was tried and convicted in 1895 of committing indecent acts with men. He was sentenced to two years' imprisonment at hard labour. Homosexuality was a crime in Britain until 1967.

## Madonna's corset goes for \$18,000

LONDON (R) — A pink corset designed by Jean-Paul Gaultier and worn by pop star Madonna during her 1990 concert tour was sold for \$12,000 (\$18,000), auctioneers Christie's said. An alto saxophone signed by U.S. President Bill Clinton and members of rock group Fleetwood Mac went for \$22,000 (\$33,000) at the London sale of rock memorabilia. At rival auctioneers Sotheby's, love letters from Russian-born composer Dmitri Shostakovich to his mistress Elena Konstantinovskaya, a language student then aged 210, were sold to a dealer for \$10,925 (\$16,500). "Almost entirely unpublished, they reveal a passionate but little-known episode in the composer's married life," Sotheby's said in a statement. Sotheby's also sold a volume containing the only keyboard music by British composer Henry Purcell to be written in his own hand. An anonymous buyer paid \$276,000 (\$416,000) for the 300-year-old manuscript.

## Eastwood to star in Bridges Of Madison County

WINTERSET, Iowa (R) — Hollywood's version of the best-selling love story *Bridges Of Madison County* will be filmed — in Madison County. Clint Eastwood will play the itinerant magazine photographer whose brief but enduring affair with a farmer's wife is at the heart of Robert James Waller's best-seller. The female lead has not been cast. Sherry Ellis, executive vice-president of the Winterset Chamber of Commerce, said co-producers Steven Spielberg and Kathleen Kennedy chose the town of 4,200 people southwest of Des Moines to film the movie in August.

## Clinton aide resigns after helicopter spin

WASHINGTON (R) — President Bill Clinton accepted the resignation of a top White House aide for taking a government helicopter on a golf outing. He promised taxpayers would be reimbursed. Mr. Clinton acted quickly to stamp out a new fire in his administration before it got out of control. David Watkins, a longtime Arkansas friend of Mr. Clinton who has been director of the White House Office of Administration, resigned shortly after the golf incident blew up into an embarrassment.

## Snake smuggler forks out guilty plea

WASHINGTON (R) — A Parma, Ohio, man pleaded guilty to taking part in a smuggling ring that brought snakes from Papua New Guinea, into the United States since 1987. The Justice Department said it said Edmund Celebucki smuggled the snakes into the country in suitcases and sold them to collectors for as much as \$3,000 a snake. The operation netted more than \$250,000. Mr. Celebucki, who pleaded guilty in federal court in Akron, faces a maximum penalty of up to 10 years in jail and a \$500,000 fine at his sentencing on Aug. 16.



Alexander Solzhenitsyn

## Solzhenitsyn returns home

VLADIVOSTOK, Russia (R)

Russian writer Alexander Solzhenitsyn, returning to his native Russia after 20 years in exile, was mobbed by journalists on his arrival in Vladivostok Friday.

Some 20 television teams and a total of 150 cameramen, sound crew, reporters and photographers swarmed the official party led by the deputy governor of Primorsky region, Igor Lebedev.

Security men clearing a path to the airport terminal building came close to blows with some newsmen.

Mr. Solzhenitsyn, 75, smiled and embraced "bouquet-carrying admirers in the crowd. But he looked tired and overwhelmed after a 38-hour trip from his exile home in the U.S. state of Vermont, round the other side of the world.

His son Yermolai and his wife Natalya supported him on either side. But he said he would stick to his plan of meeting the people on Vladivostok's main square.

Mr. Solzhenitsyn plans to return to Moscow overland through Russia, making a voyage of rediscovery of his homeland.

Also at the airport were Bishop Veniamin of Vladivostok, main city of Russia's Far East, and two women in folk dress bearing the bread and salt traditionally offered to travellers.

Mr. Solzhenitsyn, Russia's best-known living writer, set foot in Russia for the first time in 20 years earlier Friday when the plane made a refuelling stopover in Magadan.

In a brief statement he complained that the millions who died in Communist prison camps were being forgotten, both by those who were not touched by that annihilation and, even more so, by those who were responsible for it.

This, he said, was why modern Russia had lost its way.

Mr. Solzhenitsyn then bowed low to the tarmac to pay his respects to those who died in the prison camps scattered throughout the desolate Kolyma region of which Magadan is

## S. African government wants amnesty with full disclosure

CAPE TOWN, South Africa (AP)

The African National Congress-led government said Friday it wants to require a full public disclosure of political crimes before offenders could receive amnesty.

Its proposed amnesty law, a key part of President Nelson Mandela's push for reconciliation after decades of racial strife, would set Dec. 5, 1993, as a cutoff date, excluding white extremists accused of terror bombings linked to last month's all-race election, new Justice Minister Dullah Omar said.

French Foreign Minister Alain Juppe denied at a press conference that the stability conference was duplicating existing organisations such as the

Omar said in parliament. But he added: "There will be no amnesty without disclosure."

The ANC, which easily won the nation's first all-race vote to gain majority control of the first post-apartheid government, contends disclosure is necessary for the nation to move past racial hatred sown by the discrimination of apartheid.

It knows that police and former officials of the National Party government it succeeded committed crimes in fighting the anti-apartheid movement, and disclosing who did what will hurt the white-led National Party politically.

One of the most notorious cases will conclude Saturday with a ruling in the inquest into the death of ANC activist Matthew Goniwe and three others found murdered almost a decade ago. Evidence at the inquest indicated top military officials may have sanctioned the killings.

Mr. Omar said victims of political crime should be compensated, but the legislation he outlined prohibit civil or criminal action against offenders.

"In my view South Africa owes a debt of enormous proportions to victims," he said.

Offenders who applied for amnesty for crimes committed after Dec. 5 would be turned down, he said. But questioned later by the Associated Press, Mr. Omar said Mr. Mandela, as president, had the power to grant clemency to anyone he wanted, and that the matter of the AWB suspects was between the president and the right wing group.

"There will be no Nuremberg-type trials, no vengeance, no witch-hunts, no revenge, no humiliation," Mr.

## Diplomats cool on Khmer Rouge proposal

PHNOM PENH (R) — A ceasefire proposal by Cambodia's Khmer Rouge guerrillas has little prospect of success and is more a ploy to stop sympathetic countries from providing the government with arms, diplomats said Friday.

"It's difficult to watch television because of a low voltage. Furthermore, there are military units whose soldiers are suffering from malnutrition... because of food shortage."

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# Sports

## Schumacher quickest in Barcelona after day of politics and chaos

BARCELONA (R) — World championship leader Michael Schumacher claimed pole position for Sunday's Spanish Grand Prix Friday after a day dominated by politics, bickering and virtual chaos in the paddock.

The 25-year-old German, driving a Benetton, has already won the opening four races of the season and is seeking to add a record-equalling fifth successive season-opening victory to his sequence in Sunday's 65-lap race at the Circuit de Catalunya.

He was in dominant form again Friday, a particularly impressive feat as he and the Benetton team, like the majority of the teams, had not done any practice during the morning free session.

This was because they boycotted the session in support of their protest at the safety measures railroaded through by the International Automobile Federation (FIA) following the recent sequence of fatal and critical accidents in the sport.

At one stage, it seemed the afternoon session might be

run, as was the morning one, with only nine cars, but the arguments were finally resolved.

An overnight dispute over the safety of the circuit was resolved when a makeshift chicane, made of tyres, was positioned before the fast Nissan corner.

This satisfied the Grand Prix Drivers' Association (GSPA) which had threatened to strike if they were not satisfied with the safety level of the track.

But the day was then hit by a continuing row between several of the teams, led by Benetton and their outspoken managing director Flavio Briatore, and the FIA.

It was resolved with a compromise agreement after a crisis meeting between FIA President Max Mosley and the team leaders, which apparently diluted Mosley's power, and the teams rejoined the race meeting.

In hot conditions, Schumacher was quickest in his Benetton ahead of Finland's Mika Hakkinen in a McLaren, Britain Damon Hill in a Williams and Frenchman Jean Alesi in a Ferrari.



Indiana Pacers' Derrick McKey (right) gets pressured by the New York Knicks' Anthony Mason (left) and Charles Oakley (rear) during the first quarter of game two of their Eastern Conference final Thursday in New York. The Knicks, who won the game 89-78, now lead the best-of-seven series 2-0 (AFP photo)

## IOC encourages Beijing to bid again

SYDNEY (AFP) — Another bid by China to host the Olympics would be enthusiastically welcomed by the International Olympic Committee, IOC President Juan Antonio Samaranch made clear Friday. Samaranch, here on a three-day tour of preparations for the 2000 games for which Sydney defeated Beijing last September, said IOC officials were currently discussing with Beijing whether it would bid for the 2004 games. "Yes, we would like them to bid again," he said. "It would be very good for the Olympic movement."

He also reaffirmed IOC hopes of trying to help Sarajevo, site of the 1984 Winter Olympics, to rebuild sports facilities destroyed in the civil war. Samaranch, who visited Sarajevo to make an appeal for peace in February, said the movement planned to spend up to \$10 million in the reconstruction of its sporting facilities when peace returns. He complimented Sydney on the progress it had made.

## Sampras, Courier win easily Fernandez upset in French Open

PARIS (AP) — Top-seeded Pete Sampras powered into the fourth round of the French Open Friday, but Mary Joe Fernandez, the women's runner-up last year, was upset by promising Romanian Irina Spirlea.

Two other seeds — No. 16 Richard Krajicek of the Netherlands and No. 15 Helena Sukova of the Czech Republic — also were upset, leaving only eight of the 16 seeds in both the men's and women's fields even before the tournament reached the halfway point.

Ines Gorrochategui of Argentina beat Sukova, 7-6 (10-8), 7-6 (7-1). Mikael Tillstrom of Sweden, a qualifier ranked 226th playing in his first Grand Slam, surprised Krajicek, 7-6 (7-4), 6-2, 6-3 to earn a fourth-round match with Sampras.

"I was just looking forward to playing in the main draw, and suddenly I'm playing my best tennis," said Tillstrom, 24. "I'm thrilled."

He said playing Sampras would be fun, adding, "If I can return his serve, maybe I can beat him."

Sampras, playing his best tennis of the tournament, overwhelmed Paul Haarhuis of the Netherlands, 6-1, 6-4, 6-1 in just 99 minutes. Jim Courier, the men's runner-up last year and champion in 1991 and 1992, also advanced with a 6-3, 6-1, 6-1 drubbing of Sweden's Jonas Bjorkman.

"I didn't want to give him an opportunity to get into his game and I did a pretty good job of that," Sampras said. "I didn't take him lightly by any means."

Sampras said he was trying not to distract by the fact that a title here would make him the first man since Rod Laver in 1969 to win all four Grand Slam championships.

"It would definitely be a very sweet story if I could come through and win here," he said. "It's definitely the biggest challenge of my career to win here, so I'll do everything I can to do it."

"I didn't feel I was playing bad, but he was playing too



Jim Courier

good for me," Haarhuis said of Sampras. "He has a good chance to win."

The 20-year-old Spirlea, ranked 41st in the world, outran and outhit the 10th-seeded Fernandez in a one-sided 6-4, 6-1 victory.

"Once she got into the match, she got confident and started to play very well," said Fernandez, who had never seen Spirlea play before this week.

Last year, in what she called a "big year" and through, Fernandez lost a break-three-set final to Steffi Graf after victories over Arantxa Sanchez Vicario and Gabriela Sabatini. She rallied from a 1-6, 1-5 deficit in her quarter-final against Sabatini, one of the great all-time Grand Slam comebacks.

Bur Fernandez said her preparation for the French Open were hampered by health problems and limited play on clay.

Spirlea had lost in the first round in her two previous Grand Slams, but showed promise at the Italian Open earlier this month by beating Sabatini en route to a semifinal loss to Martina Navratilova.

The Romanian's likely opponent in the fourth round is Graf, the no. 1 seed and overwhelming favorite.

Spirlea refused to speculate on her chances.

"That's too quickly," she said. "I just finished my match. I'll have time to think about it."

Graf faced Joanne Kruger of South Africa in a third-round match later Friday.

On Thursday, the spotlight fell on two durable pros who rarely get much attention — Aaron Krickstein and Ronald Agner.

Agner, at 29 the oldest man left in the field, outlasted 21-year-old David Prinosil in the longest French Open match since the tiebreaker was adopted in 1973.

## Brazil World Cup squad arrives to raucous welcome

SAN JOSE, California (R) — Three-time world champions Brazil were ready to begin their quest for a fourth World Cup title after the team arrived in northern California Thursday.

The team landed at San Jose International after a 13-hour flight from Rio de Janeiro and were greeted by a jazz band, the Brazilian consul and a number of local dignitaries before passing through customs at the usually sedate airport.

At the terminal, the team was besieged by 100 noisy Brazilian fans, who banged drums, chanted and cheered outside a chaotic 30-minute news conference.

"In two years we have been here six times, but this time it's different," said Brazil coach Carlos Alberto Parreira of his team's trips to the United States.

"This is a big moment for Brazil and in our life. We are ready and we are hoping for the best."

Parreira, who has already released a numerical roster, denied that numbers I-II signified a probable starting lineup for the team's June 20 opener against Russia at Stanford Stadium.

"The numbers are not a commitment," he said. "We

## World Cup security bungle causes alarm

WASHINGTON (AFP) — The killing of a policeman playing the role of a football hooligan during a practice run has reinforced fears that U.S. security forces might overreact if there is any trouble during the World Cup.

An investigation has been ordered in California where the policeman was shot dead on a train by a fellow officer.

"I have great concern that domestic law enforcement is going to confuse the passionate support of soccer fans with much publicised hooliganism," said World Cup chief Alan Rothenberg.

Organisers also recommended restricting alcohol sales throughout venue cities on game day as the Italians did in 1990.

However, the stringency of the measures depends on local officials.

"We are ready for whatever might occur," says Dave Jensen, head of the Washington site.

"Undoubtedly there will be some fistfights, some arguments," he said. "I hope to God police don't overreact and the media don't then make a big deal about soccer violence."

Rothenberg said football's reputation in America was unfa-

"I guarantee there will be a lot less mayhem on the field than we've seen in basketball and major league baseball recently," he said.

Although England's infamous fans will not be in America for the final which kick-off next month, West German and Dutch fans are expected in their thousands.

The Netherlands and Germany have a core of hardened hooligans who are amongst the most violent in the world.

"I'm not guaranteeing we won't have an incident," Best said. "It would be foolish to do that. We will not be able to anticipate everything. This is a

strange world. But if we do have one, we will handle it. The key is planning."

Dallas Deputy Police Chief Rick Hatter is busy preparing for the "invasion."

The question is not if they come, it's how many and where will they cause problems," he says. "We won't be repressive, but we will take aggressive action if there are problems."

Security measures will differ slightly by venue, but metal detectors, detailed surveillance cameras and guards can be expected everywhere.

Chicago security manager Lee Flosi, who will spend his World Cup watching the crowds on special cameras, explained: "If there is a dime on the ground, these cameras can see the date."

But he admitted: "We've already done a lot to keep hooligans away. We can deal with 10 or 15 troublemakers. It's the 500 that are hard to handle."

Security officials have been observing how the British, German, Italian and Swedish police deal with hooligans and even the Defence Department has been helping out.

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For further information please call tel. 610858. The Spanish Cultural Centre, Jabal Amman, 3rd Circle. Open daily from 8.00 a.m. to 1.00 p.m. and from 2.00 to 8.00 p.m. except Friday and Sunday

## NEWS IN BRIEF

### Princess Haya chosen to international team

ROME (Petra) — Her Royal Highness Princess Haya Bint Al Hussein has been selected to join the Higher International Military Sports Council to represent it in various horse riding tournaments. Princess Haya was chosen to the council's team, which includes only 10 riders from various world countries, since she is the only female rider to participate in the eighth military championship hosted currently by Italy and due to her good performance and results at the championship. Princess Haya is the first Arab rider to be chosen by the council. Her Royal Highness ranked 15th in the 130-140 centimetres showjumping tournament out of a total number of 47 competitors and was 13th in the 120-130 competition out of 37 riders.

### Head-butting player gets 2nd fine

LONDON (AP) — Mir Zaman Gul, the Pakistani squash player who head-butted an opponent during the British Open last month, was fined £500 (\$750) Thursday for his second year's punishment. The British Squash Association said Gul's actions in the match against Anthony Hill of Australia were "wholly inappropriate for a squash player and have brought the game into disrepute." The incident had already brought Gul a £1,500 (\$2,250) fine and four-month suspension from the tour, announced last month by the Professional Squash Association, the sport's world governing body.

### Fashanu in clear

LONDON (AP) — Wimbledon striker John Fashanu has escaped action over alleged "elbowing," for the second time in six months. Relegated Oldham Athletic submitted a video to the Football Association of their 3-0 Premiership defeat at Selhurst Park last month, claiming a Fashanu challenge had left defender Richard Johnson with concussion. However, after studying the film, the FA decided to take no action against Fashanu, 30, who was also cleared after a November clash with Gary Mabbutt left the Tottenham defender needing surgery for severe facial injuries.

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Q 8 5 4  
J 10 7 2  
J 10 8 7  
Q 10 9 7

**WEST**  
Q 2 2  
Q 8 5 3  
Q 2 6 5  
Q 6 5 3

**SOUTH**  
A 10 9 8  
A 9 8 7  
A 8 7 6

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**CONCORD "1" THE GETAWAY**  
Shows: 12:30, 1:30, 6:15, 8:30, 10:30  
**CONCORD "2" LAMBADA**  
Shows: 11 a.m., 12:30, 2, 5:15 p.m.

## Sharon to challenge Rabin

TEL AVIV (R) — Israeli right-winger Ariel Sharon split the already foundering opposition Likud Party on Friday by launching his own campaign to unseat Prime Minister Yitzhak Rabin in elections scheduled for 1996.

Mr. Sharon's announcement that he would run in Israel's first direct election of a prime minister was a slap in the face to Likud's new leader Benjamin Netanyahu, who is struggling to mount effective opposition to Mr. Rabin's peace deal with the PLO.

Mr. Sharon, who spearheaded Israel's controversial 1982 invasion of Lebanon, said he would remain in Likud but try to head a front of right-wing parties.

Former Likud Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, ousted by Mr. Rabin in 1992 elections, urged Mr. Sharon to drop his plans for the poll due to a lack of support and Mr. Sharon with 12 per cent.

Mr. Sharon countered: "I hope Mr. Netanyahu will at least permit me to stay in the front of right-wing parties."

Former Likud Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, ousted by Mr. Rabin in 1992 elections, urged Mr. Sharon to drop his plans for the poll due to a lack of support and Mr. Sharon with 12 per cent.

"I am making preparations to contest the prime minister's

office in the 1996 elections," Mr. Sharon told Israel Radio. The 66-year-old former cited his experience fighting in Israel's wars as preparation for Israel's top job.

"Arik Sharon is a permanent subversive," Mr. Netanyahu told army radio. "The time has come for such a man to leave Likud."

"That Arik Sharon wants to be prime minister — at a minimum, prime minister — is no surprise," insisted Mr. Netanyahu, 44, who is as yet untested in a national election.

In rhetoric typical of Likud, Mr. Sharon countered: "I hope Mr. Netanyahu will at least permit me to stay in the front of right-wing parties."

Former Likud Prime Minister Yitzhak Shamir, ousted by Mr. Rabin in 1992 elections, urged Mr. Sharon to drop his plans for the poll due to a lack of support and Mr. Sharon with 12 per cent.

Previously the prime minister was leader of the party able to garner the support of a

Benyamin Begin, son of the late Likud founder Menachem Begin, said the burly Sharon was about as likely to win the election as the World Tennis Championship.

A Dahaf poll for the daily Yedioth Achronot last week showed Mr. Rabin the preferred Israeli leader among 36 per cent of Israelis, followed by Mr. Netanyahu with 19 per cent of the support and Mr. Sharon with 12 per cent.

Former army chief Rafael Eitan, 64, who announced his candidacy in October, took fourth place with 11 per cent.

Under election reforms, Israel's prime minister will for the first time be chosen directly by popular vote. Failure of any one candidate to win more than 50 per cent of the vote would force a runoff between the top two candidates.

Mr. Rabin froze the housing drive when he took office and accelerated peace talks with the Palestinians that led to Israel's handing over this month of the West Bank town of Jericho and most of the Gaza Strip.

parliamentary majority. As defence minister in 1982 Mr. Sharon launched an invasion of Lebanon with the declared aim of destroying what he saw as the Palestinian threat there. But the occupation of South Lebanon grew unpopular as Israeli casualties grew.

Mr. Sharon lost the defence post in 1983 after an official inquiry found him indirectly responsible for the Beirut massacre of Palestinian refugees.

While housing minister in 1991, Mr. Sharon was snubbed during a visit to Washington for spearheading a West Bank Jewish settlement drive that Israel's guarding U.S. ally assailed as an obstacle to peace.

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JOINT PATROL: Israeli border policemen shake hands with their Palestinian counterparts before setting out on a patrol along the road

leading to the Jewish settlement of Netzarim in the centre of the Gaza Strip. The patrol has managed to avoid misunderstandings and incidents (AFP photo)

## Gunmen seized, hostages freed in Russia

MOSCOW (AP) — Elite troops captured a gang of kidnappers and freed their four hostages unharmed Friday in southern Russia, only hours after the gunmen had fled aboard a helicopter with millions of dollars in ransom, police said.

There were conflicting reports about the fate of at least one of the four kidnappers and the size of the ransom.

Some officials and news agencies said one of the men was killed in a shootout as he tried to flee.

The kidnappers' MI-8 helicopter took off at 9:15 a.m. (0515 GMT) with a three-man military crew at the controls, said Maj. Viktor Gusakov, an Interior Ministry spokesman in the southern Russian city of Mineralnye Vody.

Military helicopters carrying anti-terrorist squads were close behind, he said.

About three hours later, the MI-8 landed near the settlement of Bacha-Yurt in Chechnya, about 15 kilometres (10 miles) from the border with the region of Dagestan.

Igor Denisov, another Interior Ministry spokesman in Mineralnye Vody, said elite troops captured all four kidnappers, but other officials and news agencies said one was killed.

Alexander Kalmykov, a police official in Mineralnye

Vody, said there were also reports the kidnappers had "burned" some of the ransom money.

Maj. Enisov said the kidnappers got \$10 million, but an Interior Ministry spokesman in Moscow, Yuri Reshetnik, said the ransom was \$4 million.

He said all the money was recovered.

Maj. Reshetnik said the hostage-takers were citizens of Chechnya, a mountainous, breakaway region of Russia famed for its fierce warrior culture and its ruthless criminal gangs.

The hostage drama began Thursday afternoon when the four men, armed with guns and a grenade, seized a bus loaded with schoolchildren, teachers and parents.

Military helicopters carrying anti-terrorist squads were close behind, he said.

About three hours later, the MI-8 landed near the settlement of Bacha-Yurt in Chechnya, about 15 kilometres (10 miles) from the border with the region of Dagestan.

The bus driver told police the kidnappers were armed with a short-barrel assault rifle, a pistol and a grenade.

In route to Mineralnye Vody, police surrounded the bus at the village of Kangy. The kidnappers threatened to decapitate the children.

After several hours of negotiations, they traded the chil-

dren and one adult for four Kalashnikov assault rifles, ammunition, four flak jackets, night vision devices and 10 amules or containers of morphine, Mr. Gusakov said.

At Mineralnye Vody, the kidnappers let airport workers bring food and water to their 20 remaining captives. The kidnappers negotiated with authorities over a portable radio.

Early Friday, the kidnappers traded all but four hostages for millions of dollars in cash, the MI-8 helicopter and three more automatic rifles.

The bus was en route from Vladikavkaz in the North Ossetia region to Stavropol, according to the Ministry for Emergency Situations.

The kidnapping was eerily similar to a hostage-taking in December in southern Russia.

In a four-day December saga, four gunmen swapped a dozen schoolchildren from Rostov-on-Don for \$10 million and a helicopter. The getaway failed when the helicopter's engine stalled and they had to make a forced landing in the mountains, where they were captured.

None of the hostages was injured but hundreds of thousands of dollars of the ransom money disappeared after the kidnappers tossed handfuls of hundred-dollar bills out of the helicopter.

## COLUMN

Khaleda Zia sends her foes gifts from Mecca

DHAKA (R) — Bangladesh's Prime Minister Begum Khaleda Zia, in a rare gesture of goodwill, has sent gifts to her arch political enemy, opposition leader Sheikh Hasina, her aides said Friday. They said the gifts Mrs. Khaleda collected while performing haj last week included a prayer mat and prayer beads. Political analysts said the move indicated Mrs. Khaleda's willingness to resolve differences arising from an opposition boycott of parliament. The stand-off began in February when opposition members, led by Sheikh Hasina's Awami League, walked out of parliament to protest against remarks by Information Minister Nazmul Huda that allegedly offended their religious sentiments. They decided not to return until Mr. Huda apologized, something he has so far refused to do. Mrs. Khaleda and Mrs. Hasina led a joint campaign in 1990 that climaxed in the ousting of former President Hossain Mohammad Ershad, a military强人 who ruled the country for nearly nine years. Since then a rift between the two women has left them refusing to speak to each other in either public or private, sources close to them say. Mrs. Khaleda took over as prime minister following Bangladesh's first free elections in February 1991, three months after Geo. Ershad's fall from power. Mrs. Hasina's Awami League emerged as the biggest opposition party.

## 10-month-old lives 4 days without food

CAIRO (AP) — A 10-month-old baby lived four days without milk or water after her mother and father suffocated from carbon monoxide in their apartment, a newspaper reported Friday. "The apartment was full of dies, and the baby was very yellow," Maj. Fawzy Salah, the policeman who found the bodies, told the Associated Press. The government-owned newspaper Al Akhbar said neighbours called police after detecting a stench emanating from Eman Awad's apartment. Maj. Salah and his colleagues broke in and found Marmar Awad, the baby, in the bedroom. Her parents lay in the bathroom, dead. "What helped the baby most is that she had a fan working beside her, and the shutters were open," Maj. Salah said. The bodies of Awad, a 30-year-old bus conductor, and the mother, Insa Youssef, 27, were apparently suffocated in the bathroom from a faulty butane gas water heater like that used in many Egyptian houses. A neighbour nursing her own 4-month-old baby took the child, Maj. Salah said, and "she sucked milk continually for 15 minutes." Al Akhbar quoted a pathologist, Fahry Salah, as saying a baby can remain alive for an inordinate amount of time by feeding off its body fat.

## Mystery alumnus gives big to university

HONG KONG (AP) — A bashful Hong Kong graduate of Canada's McGill University is giving his alma mater eight million Canadian dollars (\$5.8 million) to build a new engineering building, its principal said. David Johnston declined to name the mystery donor, saying a promise of anonymity had been made by the university. But he told reporters it was likely the building would be named in the benefactor's honour when it opens in a few years' time on the university's campus in downtown Montreal. Nearly 700 graduates of McGill University live in Hong Kong, including Chye Kuk, whose father Robert Kuk is one of the territory's wealthiest tycoons and a confidant of top Chinese leaders. Others are Anna Pao Sohnen, daughter of the late shipping magnate Sir Y.K. Pao, and Edward Leong, a prominent doctor who represents the medical profession in the Legislative Council. The mystery donation represents two-thirds of the 12 million Canadian dollars (\$8.7 million) McGill University has gathered so far in Hong Kong as part of its 200 million Canadian dollar (\$145 million) fund-raising drive. Several thousand Hong Kongers hold degrees from universities in Canada, which remains the most popular destination for emigrants from the British colony in the run-up to Chinese rule in 1997.

## Rwandan rebels press advances

NAIROBI (AP) — Rwandan rebels advanced further Friday against battle-weary government soldiers who have started fleeing the capital Kigali where fierce artillery battles raged through the night, a U.N. spokesman said.

Hutu militiamen blamed for the slaughter of hundreds of thousands of people abandoned several positions in Kigali as rebels pressed what could be their final onslaught on the capital.

Soldiers took over several checkpoints from the militiamen to try and hold them against a barrage of mortar and artillery fire from advancing Tutsi-led rebels, he said.

"Small arms fire and intermittent mortar fire and shelling continued this morning after a night of heavy shelling," said the spokesman by telephone from Kigali.

Leaders of the rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) Thursday bowed to pressure from the United Nations and agreed to open ceasefire talks with army commanders in Kigali Monday, U.N. spokesman Abdul Kabir said.

U.N. military sources meanwhile said a rebel victory in Kigali was "only a few days away."

Outside the capital, the RPF claimed in a radio broadcast to have captured the key market town of Ruhango, tightening the noose around nearby Gitarama where the self-proclaimed Hutu government fled last month as carnage en-

gulfed the capital. U.N. officials could not confirm the fall of Ruhango, 50 kilometres south of Kigali.

Fierce battles also raged around the northern towns of Rulindo and Ruhengeri, which was a stronghold of the late President Juvenal Habyarimana.

Mr. Habyarimana's death in an alleged April 6 rocket attack on his plane unleashed a tide of bloodletting in which 200,000 to 500,000 Rwandans have been hacked, clubbed, burned or shot to death, many by Hutu militiamen which he formed and armed in the year before his death, relief officials said.

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Fierce battles also raged around the northern towns of Rulindo and Ruhengeri, which was a stronghold of the late President Juvenal Habyarimana.

Mr. Habyarimana's death in an alleged April 6 rocket attack on his plane unleashed a tide of bloodletting in which 200,000 to 500,000 Rwandans have been hacked, clubbed, burned or shot to death, many by Hutu militiamen which he formed and armed in the year before his death, relief officials said.

Soldiers took over several checkpoints from the militiamen to try and hold them against a barrage of mortar and artillery fire from advancing Tutsi-led rebels, he said.

"Small arms fire and intermittent mortar fire and shelling continued this morning after a night of heavy shelling," said the spokesman by telephone from Kigali.

Leaders of the rebel Rwanda Patriotic Front (RPF) Thursday bowed to pressure from the United Nations and agreed to open ceasefire talks with army commanders in Kigali Monday, U.N. spokesman Abdul Kabir said.

U.N. military sources meanwhile said a rebel victory in Kigali was "only a few days away."

Outside the capital, the RPF claimed in a radio broadcast to have captured the key market town of Ruhango, tightening the noose around nearby Gitarama where the self-proclaimed Hutu government fled last month as carnage en-

## NATO: Dialogue with Russia serious, intense

BRUSSELS (R) — NATO Deputy Secretary-General Sergio Balanzino, describing dialogue with Russia as serious and intense, said Friday he hoped the former cold war foe would soon sign up for NATO's Partnership for Peace (PFP).

"To deal with Russia is not a walk in the park," Mr. Balanzino told reporters at NATO headquarters in Brussels after the former Soviet Republic of Kazakhstan signed up for NATO's Partnership for Peace (PFP) programme.

"It's a dialogue (with Russia) which is becoming serious and intense," he added, stressing he hoped that Russia would soon join PFP.

Kazakhstan is the 19th country to join PFP, a programme

aimed at forging closer military ties between NATO and its former cold war enemies.

"By now, we should count not those who have become partners, but those who remain outside," Mr. Balanzino said.

Kazakhstan's Foreign Minister Kanat Saudabayev also urged Russia to sign up for PFP, but said he did not believe Moscow should have a special relationship with NATO.

Russian Defence Minister Pavel Grachev told NATO defence ministers in Brussels Wednesday that Russia wanted special ties with NATO on security issues and said Moscow wanted to set up an "active mechanism" through which Russia and the alliance

could regularly tackle security issues.

He handed over a list of proposals to NATO for a future relationship with the alliance, but said these should not be seen as conditions for joining PFP.

Mr. Balanzino said NATO was currently examining the document of proposals and hoped to come to a conclusion soon.

But he said it was unlikely that Russia would sign PFP at a meeting of alliance foreign ministers in Istanbul next month.

"I would prefer to be a bit more cautious and leave all the chances open and not pin down a date for the signing of the document," he said.

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